

PERSONALITY OF OPERATIC STARS REVEALED IN FRIENDLY GOSSIP

America Has a Wealth of Sopranos, but Shows Surprising Lack of Tenors of the First Rank.

DEFECTS OF THE MALE VOICE BLAMED.

It is an unusual and a delightful thing to get acquainted with grand opera on the stage. It is not such a very difficult thing to get acquainted with grand opera either before or behind the scenes, but off the stage is quite another story. A HERALD reporter had this privilege a few nights ago in Baltimore, when a group of the great singers were indulging in operatic gossip. Mme. Emma Eames has just made the confession, which came as a surprise, that she is superstitious.



MR. ALOIS BURGSTALLER.

"Do you know," said she, "that as much as I dislike the name of Emma—I am so glad that it is my name?"

"Why?"

"Because there seems to be," continued the prima donna, "a certain musical fatality about the name of Emma. Possibly very few people have realized how many distinguished singers bear that name."

"Yes, of course; there is Emma Calvé. 'Oh, but that is not the list by any means. You must remember Emma Albin, Emma Thursby, Emma Abbot and at least a dozen others who bear the charming name of Emma. I am very glad indeed to be in their company.'"

Mr. Julian Story, who is the husband of Mme. Eames and a distinguished painter as well, interposed with the remark to the effect that the choosing of one's name was not a matter of foresight but of accident.

"You may say that luck has something to do with the prima donna's success, but I think that education and the God given voice is the real secret of it."

Mr. Caruso looked rather inquiringly at Mr. Story and said:—"It never occurred to me that my singing was luck, and it also never occurred to me that I had a God given voice. I sing as best I can, and if the public likes it I am more than pleased."



M. JULIAN STOREY.

"You should, then, be very well pleased with the reception and the praise you have received this evening?"

"I am. I love America, not because alone it brings dollars in my pocket, but because it has treated me so nicely in an artistic way. As you will observe, I now speak English quite well, or quite some I think is better. When I came here two years ago I could speak no English at all, and now just listen to me. Is it not good English that I speak? I, myself, think it is some of the best English that there is that I talk."

"Quite so," interrupted Mr. Burgstaller, "but long before I was Paris, long before I came to America, I could talk English as well as you talk English now."

"Very good, indeed," said Mr. Caruso, "but you must remember, sir, that you were possibly thinking of North America when you learned languages. At that time



MADAM EMMA EAMES.

"It is this. It is a hard thing to describe, but it is easily understood by singers. The carrying power of the voice is not made up of the tones thrown out from chest notes. It comes from the high and strong and



SIGNOR ARTURO VIGNA.

clear tones which are given from the throat and the mouth. American men are so much given to catarrhal troubles that they are generally barred from that form of vocal expression. When they do achieve it the sound is apt to be nasal and shrill."

"What do you mean by saying that we have no school of music in America?"

"Why, America has the ragtime school," said Mr. Story. "That is purely American."

"More American, do you think, than coon songs or the old plantation melodies?"

"As much as both classes of tunes you speak of are in vogue, it does not form a school," said Mr. Vigna. "It does not make national music. America is absolutely devoid of national music, although there are a great many competent and capable writers of music in America."

"I presume," continued Mr. Story, that

Possibilities of American Ragtime in Developing a Distinctive School of Music—Odd Operatic Superstitions.

UNITED STATES COMPOSERS ARE BUT FEW

you think there is only one school of music, and that is the Italian."

"Oh, no, indeed, I am not so narrow minded as that. I know very much better."

"What are the schools of music, then?"

"There are only three in the world—French, Italian and German. These are the only countries that have ever produced musicians who wrote together and made a classification of their writings. Other countries have written quite as good music, I presume; but they have not made what you call here a union job of it."

"How about Spanish music?"

"Now you touch the keynote of the musical problem. Spain has given to the world a style of music entirely distinctive and entirely characteristic. At the same time there is no Spanish school of music. There is nothing to go back to, nothing to study, nothing to follow up."

"Do you class America in the same rank as Spain in a musical way?" questioned Mr. Story.

Mr. Caruso shrugged his shoulders and moved away. Mr. Burgstaller looked complacent and interested.

"I think, really, that America and Spain, or rather the United States and Spain," answered Mr. Vigna, "are very much in the same class as far as music goes. Spain has its typical music, the United States has its typical music also, but neither of them have done anything in the way of concerted action to keep that music together. In other words, there is no school."

To those who do not know grand opera singers off the stage it might be well to explain that Mr. Burgstaller was a man of many inches but few words. He stands sedate and calm upon his six feet two of vigorous manhood. Mr. Caruso, on the other hand, despite the roles he plays, is thick set, genial and almost phlegmatic. Despite his heaviness, however, Mr. Caruso easily enthralls. He is phlegmatic only by nature but not by inclination. When the question of America and American affairs arises, Caruso is as enthusiastic as a child and of a boy. He might almost be an Irish-

man from the way he talks. Mr. Burgstaller, however, looks at things in quite a different and more sedate manner. Mr. Vigna bubbles over with conversation and enthusiasm. He, Mr. Vigna, is also a small man, but he is full of interest in his profession. It has been his good fortune to lead many orchestras in various capitals of the world, and he says very enthusiastically that in no place is his conducting more appreciated than here in New York.



SIGNOR ENRICO CARUSO.

Mr. Widener's Home for Crippled Children



The Widener Home for Crippled Children.

Wealthy Philadelphian's Memorial Training School Unique in Many Respects—Inmates To Be Made Self-Supporting and Self-Reliant in an Institution Peculiarly Fitted for Their Needs.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.] PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Saturday.

WITH the dedication of the Widener Memorial Training School for Crippled Children there was instituted a charity which has not its equal in the United States. It is a hospital for treatment and a home and a school for cripples between the ages of four and twenty-one years. Its aim besides the relief from and cure of disabling afflictions as far as human skill can accomplish it is to make the children self-supporting and independent despite the handicap of their condition.

The building has been erected and the institution endowed by P. A. B. Widener as a memorial to his wife and to their little daughter, who was a victim of an incurable disease, which despite the efforts of physicians resulted in the child's death. The endowment fund is \$2,000,000, and nothing has been overlooked to further in a liberal and intelligent way the accomplishment of the purposes contemplated. There are accommodations without crowding for two hundred inmates, and the appliances and forces of attendants for first class treatment are ample in all departments.

The imposing group of buildings is commandingly situated on a tract of ground of thirty-five acres. The ground plan of the main building covers an area of about 400 feet square. The structure, facing south, is architecturally of the Georgian period of English Renaissance, the fore-runner of the American Colonial style. It is of pressed brick and black headers, with white marble trimmings and lofty columns over the porticoes. The whole group is dominated by the six-story foot dome over the rotunda. The main building is 265 feet long and 90 feet deep, with subsidiary buildings on the north and south ends. In the south end of the main building is the medical ward and solarium, with sixteen beds. At the north end are the school and assembly rooms and auditorium. The second floor is given over to three surgical wards, two with sixteen beds each and one special ward with four beds. On the third floor are the operating rooms and their many auxiliary

apartments, such as surgeons' dressing rooms, photographic X-ray and microscope rooms. In the basement are the kitchen and also the main gymnasium, 28 by 60 feet, with dressing and bath rooms and also the winter playground.

The structures at each end of this main building are the industrial building and the educational building, with cottages No. 1 and No. 2, to be used as dormitories, one for boys and one for girls. The buildings are connected by covered corridors for comfortable passage in inclement weather and are supplied throughout with elevators and inclined planes. The heating and lighting plants are established in the basement of the industrial building.

Besides the teaching of ordinary trades, each one chosen with reference to the physical condition of the patient, there are to be courses in truck farming, poultry raising, gardening and similar outdoor occupations which furnish a means of livelihood. Upon the acquirement of a sufficient proficiency in any of the trades each inmate will be paid wages for his or her work and will be required to pay for board. Inmates will leave the school when, upon reaching their twenty-first year, they shall have learned enough to be independent and self-supporting.

The administration of the institution will be under the direction of a Board of Managers, the immediate personal supervision resting on a matron of house mother, with assistant matrons. The matron, Mrs. Catharine Blitney, formerly of the University Hospital, and her helpers have been especially chosen because of their technical knowledge of the physical training of children and with the idea of giving the little sufferers a home in the best sense of the word.

Denied Marriage, Was Ousted from Army

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.] LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Saturday.

FIRST Lieutenant Sidney S. Burbank, of the Sixth United States Infantry regiment, has been cashiered from the army for embezzlement of company funds, forgery and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman in denying his marriage to a Filipino woman.

First Lieutenant Sidney S. Burbank Must Also Suffer Long Imprisonment.

Leutenant Burbank was raised at an army post, the son of Captain Clayton Burbank. His family had been represented continuously in the regular army since the Revolutionary War. His great-grandfather was in that war, his grandfather a brigadier general and his father a captain. He enlisted as a private in September, 1897, and on April 19, 1901, he was made a first lieutenant in the Sixth regiment. The Sixth went to the Philippines in 1901, and Burbank was put in command of a small detachment and stationed in Valladolid. According to affidavits on file in the district court here, the lieutenant married Mrs. Concepcion Vasquez there on January 26, 1902.

Burbank returned to the United States with his regiment and was stationed at Fort Leavenworth. Mrs. Vasquez soon afterward appealed to the War Department to compel Lieutenant Burbank to support her and her child, a girl. The department had heard nothing of a marriage and called on the officer for an explanation. He made affidavit that he knew the woman, but had never married her.

The War Department was not satisfied. It retained counsel for the purpose, and papers sent by her to Washington were sent here to be used in the case.

Leutenant Burbank, in an effort to forestall any action the woman's counsel might take, filed suit in the District Court here asking that a "certain pretended marriage license and marriage certificate be declared null and void," alleging that these documents were forgeries.

Burbank stated in his petition that during his residence in Valladolid the woman made no claim to being his wife, and he was not aware such had been made until April, 1903. He alleged that a native official who had been placed in jail for six months by him was at the bottom of the conspiracy.

When the case was called several affectionate letters from Burbank to Mrs. Vasquez, in which she was addressed as his wife, were introduced, and the taking of evidence had just begun when the proceedings were stopped by a cablegram from General Wade to the military secretary in Washington asking that a new commission be issued.

ordered back to the Philippines and Burbank went with it. It was understood he would be present at the taking of depositions in Valladolid. On his arrival at Iloilo, Mrs. Vasquez, who now lives under the name of Burbank, filed suit in the Court of First Instance for alimony. Lieutenant Burbank was served with a summons to appear, but failed to do so.

The court decided the woman was the officer's lawful wife and awarded her alimony of \$50 gold a month. Burbank never paid her any alimony.

When Secretary of War Taft went to the Philippines a court martial that had been ordered to try Lieutenant Burbank for embezzling \$485 of his company's funds had been dissolved. Secretary Taft ordered the Board to reconvene. Burbank was tried on the embezzlement charge and one of forgery, as well as for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman in denying his marriage. He was found guilty of all the charges and the court recommended that he be sent to prison for fifteen months.

Mrs. Burbank, mother of the lieutenant, who was in the Philippines, heard of the Board's action and caught the first transport sailing for the United States. She hurried to Washington, arriving there a few days before the papers in the case. She appealed to Judge Advocate General Davis and President Roosevelt to save her son the disgrace of going to prison, citing to them the faithful services of his father and his grandfather in the regular army.

Build Bigger Battle Ships, Says Admiral Dewey

House Committee Impressed with Plea of Naval Chief for Construction of 20,000 Ton Vessels.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD.] WASHINGTON, D. C., Saturday.

WITHOUT question Admiral Dewey's statement upon a matter of naval importance has greater weight with Congress than the combined weight of numerous reports and compiled statistics of the strength of the navies of the world. So the matter of building for the American navy ships of greater power than the Dreadnought remained only a theory until on Tuesday, when, at the request of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, he met it to discuss in an informal and confidential manner the construction of such a type of vessel and to give his reasons for believing that the United States should place one or more of them upon its immediate naval programme.

Although the committee has not yet arrived at any material conclusion, it has been strongly impressed with the force of the arguments employed by the head of the American navy, and there is great likelihood that the conference will have valuable results. Many of these arguments contained statements which were of an intimate nature, particularly those in regard to actual demonstration of the superiority of the greater battle ships in recent wars and the arguments for their building by this country based upon certain foreign complications and possible dangers. For these reasons Admiral Dewey requested that his communications remain confidential, and this morning said that he considered the pledge of silence still binding.

"There was really little more in my statements to the members of the committee," said the Admiral, "than was printed in the New York Herald interview of September 22 of last year. I repeated that line of reasoning, perhaps a little more emphatically and perhaps with more illustrations of facts. It was very informal, this talk; in fact, sort of a smother, and we agreed that any statements made should be held wholly confidential. There were a good many questions and answers, and of course the con-

versation did not go upon record in any form."

The Herald interview of September 22 was printed all over the world and was very widely discussed, particularly among naval men. Admiral Dewey's belief in big battle ships and big guns as the backbone of a naval force is as strong as ever, and he thinks that the United States will have them just as soon as the sentiment of the country reaches the proper pitch.

LESSON TAUGHT BY JAPAN.

The Admiral on September 22, in answer to the question, "What are the lessons the American navy has learned from the Russo-Japan war?" replied:—"More big ships, more big guns and good shooting. The American navy needs more than anything else battle ships of 18,000 tons carrying 12-inch guns, with a few 3-inch guns for defence against torpedo boat attack."

"I have changed my mind upon this subject. When the Oregon came out I agreed with a great many other naval officers that it was an ideal craft, ready to meet the enemy at each and every range, but I now realize that the modern battle is fought at a range of three or four miles, and at that distance your 8-inch guns are nothing but so much dead weight for the ship. You might as well be firing with a pistol. That is what made the Spaniards so furious at Manila. We picked out our own range and they were inshore and helpless."

"No, it is the big ships, such as the English, are building, and the big guns that decide the battle. Then you must keep your men constantly in practice in the shooting."

Following this announcement in the Herald of Admiral Dewey's opinion favoring big ships and big guns the General Naval Board made a recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy along this idea and urging that the two 16,000 ton battle ships authorized by Congress be increased to 18,000 tons. The recommendation was referred to the Board on Construction, which found that there were so many obstacles in the way that the increase was impossible. At the same time the idea of the Admiral and of the Naval Board for big guns and no intermediate battery was adopted without dissent and the Michigan type will have a 12-inch main battery and 12-inch guns and no others save 3-inch guns, as

Monster Guns of Floating Forts Would Be Worth More to Peace Than Treaties.

Admiral Dewey proposed, for defence against torpedo attacks.

MORE BIG GUNS WANTED.

In asking Congress for ships of 20,000 tons displacement the same scheme of armament will be followed, except that the number of 12-inch guns will be increased to at least ten. Three-inch guns will, as in the 16,000 ton class, be sufficient to complete the armament in the belief of all naval officers.

Speaking of this proposed type the other day Rear Admiral Rae, chief engineer of the navy, said:—"One such ship would do more for the peace of the world than all the treaties that could be negotiated in many years. It would command the respect of every nation, because it would be able to fight half a dozen of the best battle ships now afloat."

Naval officers hope, however, that if Congress authorizes the building of such a vessel it will leave to the navy a certain amount of discretion. Hitherto Congress has been prone in its bill of authorization to practically define the specifications of the boat it authorizes—the displacement, speed, armament, armor, type of building and the cost. Naval officers feel that in order to make an ideal type of ship they should have a word to say about these particulars, and that Congress should especially follow their advice as to cost. They maintain that limitation in this respect, accompanied by requirements for displacement and speed, has resulted in several unsatisfactory ships.

Tanning by Electricity.

VICE CONSUL GENERAL HILL, of Halifax, reports that the demonstration plant there for the tanning of leather by electricity has proven a success and a company will now start a regular tannery. The rights for Canada have been purchased from the Boston inventor. This process is said to take only thirty days to manufacture, against the three to four months of the old methods, and produces better leather.

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SPECIAL SALE OF WEBER-PIANOS

USED BY THE OPERA ARTISTS

THE MOST IMPORTANT event in New York's piano trade is the Annual Sale of Pianos used by the great stars of the Conried Metropolitan Opera Company during the operatic season. From the very nature of the case such a sale can occur BUT ONCE A YEAR, and the 1906 sale is announced to begin Monday, March 26, at Aeolian Hall.

THE WEBER IS THE PIANO OF THE OPERA. Upward of fifty Uprights and Grands are required to supply the needs of the Opera House itself and the various artists in their New York residences. The company is now on its annual tour of the country and all of these pianos have been returned to us. We have put them in perfect order and now offer them to the public at

IMPORTANT REDUCTIONS IN PRICE
These Pianos Are Guaranteed Equal to New in Every Respect.

The Weber is one of the very few pianos the prices of which are ABSOLUTELY STABLE. It is not possible to buy a new Weber for a dollar less than the advertised price. This "Opera Sale" is therefore an exceptional opportunity to secure a good Weber, used for only a few months, at a substantial saving.

Notwithstanding the reduced prices, the pianos have an added value in the estimation of many people by reason of their distinguished associations. Each instrument will be plainly marked with the name of the opera artist who has used it, the original price and the special sale price. Included in the collection are the Weber Upright which Caruso had in his 57th street house and the Weber Grand "which Mme. Sembrich played so delightfully in the 'Barber of Seville' on the Opera House stage.

The usual liberal terms will be extended to all persons desiring to make purchases on the monthly payment system. Pianos of other makes will be received in part payment. The manufacturer's complete guarantee covers each instrument, exactly the same as entirely new pianos.

Inasmuch as these pianos were the personal choice of the great artists whose names they bear, there is an additional reason why this sale should appeal to all persons who wish to secure a really fine specimen of the craftsmanship of the celebrated Weber factories.

Because of its rich, sympathetic tone-quality, the Weber has for years been the choice of the greatest artists the world has known. AND THIS SPECIAL SALE PRESENTS AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE THE IDENTICAL INSTRUMENTS THAT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE STARS SELECTED FOR THEIR PERSONAL USE.

The Weber Piano Company, AEOLIAN HALL,
Now united with the Aeolian Company, also controlling the manufacture and sale of Steck, Wheelock, and Stuyvesant Pianos.
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